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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 15 August 1996 addressed to you by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, Leader of the Great Revolution of 1 September of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohamed A. AZWAI
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 15 August 1996 from the Leader of the Great Revolution of 1 September of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 22 July 1996 I addressed a letter to your predecessor as President of the Security Council in which I informed him of the views of the Great Jamahiriya with regard to our right to use air transport in travelling to other countries in fulfilment of Libya's international obligations and the right of other leaders and heads of State to use their own aircraft while visiting our country. Although we had hoped that the matter would be considered with an objectivity that accords with international custom and the relevant international covenants, there was, most regrettably, a negative response in the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 31 July 1996. This has prompted me to write to you once again in order to state the following:

1. Security Council resolution 748 (1992) cannot mean that the Council has decided to suspend Libya's membership of or participation in international organizations, and this was not its objective.

2. The Charter of the United Nations embodies the principle of respect for the sovereignty and independence of States and, with a view to promoting the maintenance of international peace and security, it encourages their membership of regional and international organizations. Such activities are to be regarded as fundamental to the development of relations among peoples and to the promotion of their national and regional interests, just as they strengthen international cooperation and provide opportunities for regular consultation in implementation of the principles of the United Nations and in accordance with the spirit of its Charter.

3. On that basis, the political delegations and the leaders and heads of State who visit Libya in the framework of the bilateral relations between their countries and the Great Jamahiriya or for the purpose of other regional or international activities have no connection with resolution 748 (1992).

4. Because we are certain that it is not the purpose of the Charter or even of resolution 748 (1992) to suspend Libya's membership of international and regional organizations or to isolate it in its international activities, we once again affirm our right to use air transport as we deem appropriate in meeting the obligations of our country and the right of leaders and heads of State to visit us in their own aircraft and without making intermediate halts.

The position Libya has taken in this regard has met with great support among the States of the world, including those that are permanent members of the Security Council.

I call upon the Security Council to consider this matter in all earnestness and to find a solution to a dilemma that is incompatible with the letter and spirit of resolution 748 (1992).

(Signed) Muammar QADDAFI